

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2020 #20-61

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### **City of Maple Ridge Collects More Than 96 Per Cent of Property Tax**

**Maple Ridge, BC:** Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Maple Ridge has collected more than 96 per cent of its 2020 property tax levy. The 96.4 per cent collection rate is in line with previous years. The collection rate in 2019 was 97.2 per cent and hovered around the 97 per cent mark between 2016 and 2018.

Property tax levies are the primary source of revenue for all B.C. communities. As part of its response to COVID-19, Council extended the property tax payment deadline to October 1. In a typical year, property taxes are due on July 2.

“COVID-19 has taken a financial toll on many families and businesses. We want to acknowledge and thank property owners who were able to pay by the July deadline. In addition, we’re pleased that we were able to provide extra time to those who needed it, in alignment with provincial direction. We will continue to do our part to support our community as we navigate these challenging times together,” said Mayor Mike Morden.

Due to the public health orders and safety plans in place for the pandemic, citizens were encouraged to use alternate methods to make their payments. This year, payments made via financial institutions increased by 39 per cent and use of the City’s online payment portal increased 18 per cent year-over-year.

Furthermore, the Maple Ridge MyCity online platform experienced a surge in enrolment, with registrations increasing by 17 per cent so far in 2020. In a typical year, the number of users increases by one per cent. MyCity is an online tool that helps home and business owners monitor and maintain their property tax, metered utility, dog and business licence accounts.